TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

February 11, 2000 LB 950

hopeful that, as we move along, we're going to be able to find even some money to assist those hospitals in purchasing equipment, but they are willing to do this themselves and are willing to step forward and take that responsibility. If that 95 percent screening rate isn't achieved...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

...by, isn't achieved by that date, the SENATOR BYARS: Department of Health and Human Services will immediately implement a statewide system. So, hopefully, it will be in place and we don't need to do that, but that is a piece they are willing to live with and I think it is extremely important. Again, I will point out to you, the original fiscal note has been substantially reduced. It was somewhat over a million dollars when the bill was introduced. It is now down to a combination of General Funds and fed funds to just over \$500,000; \$200,000, just barely, is State General Funds. really feel that that's an exaggeration, but we are eligible for additional federal funding. The federal government has recognized this need and appropriated money ...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BYARS: ...this year and they are asking for substantially more, for this issue, for the next year. Again, I think, as you look at what future treatment is, that you're going to find we're going to see a savings from early detection and treatment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Jensen, as Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This amendment is really technical and cleans up some of the language that is in the bill. We, in Section 5, we say the Department of Health and Human Services shall apply for all available federal funding to implement the Infant Hearing Act; 2. On page 6, line 25, strike beginning with "screening" through "loss"; on page 7, line 2, strike "(1)", and then strike lines 8 through 11; and strike, beginning with the second "and"